

The Gifts and Other Stories

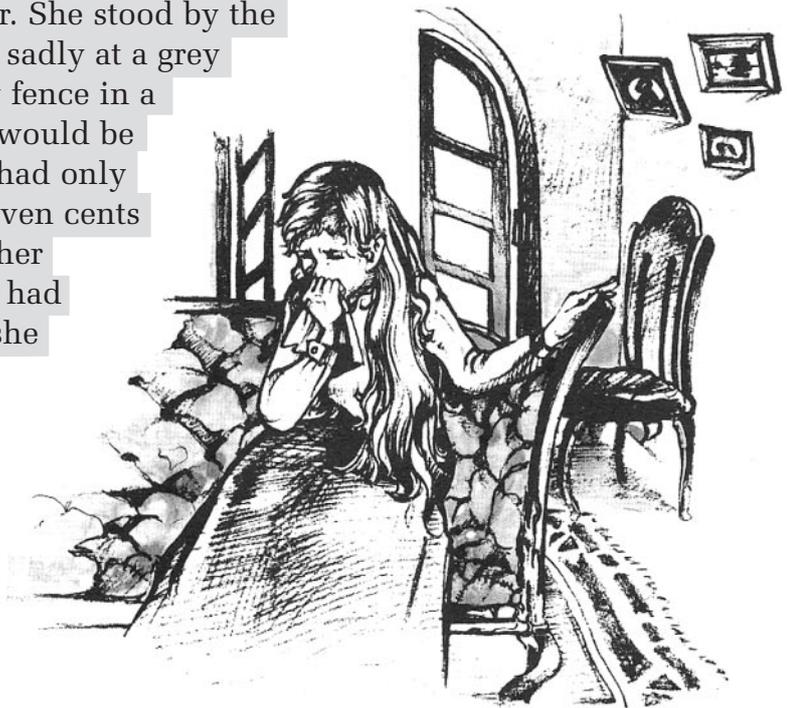
O. Henry and Others

Read this passage. Circle any words in the highlighted section that you do not understand.

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all she had saved. Three times Della counted it. Only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing she could do now but sit down on the old worn couch and cry. So Della did. You see life is made up of tears and smiles — but mainly of tears.

When Della had finished crying she patted her cheeks with face powder. She stood by the window and looked out sadly at a grey cat walking along a grey fence in a grey garden. Tomorrow would be Christmas day, and she had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents with which to buy Jim, her husband, a present. She had been saving every cent she could for months; but twenty dollars a week — which was the total of their income — doesn't leave much for saving. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are.



(from *The Gifts*, page 1)

How many words have you circled? Write the number here:

What level should you be reading?

If you circled 0 words, this level may be too easy for you. Try the level above this one.

If you circled 1–4 words, this level may be right for you. Try another sample to be sure.

If you circled 5 words or more, this level may be too hard for you. Try the level below this one.

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Other Stories

Robert Louis Stevenson

Read this passage. Circle any words in the highlighted section that you do not understand.

Mr Hyde held a heavy walking stick in his hand. He did not say a word. He seemed to listen with much impatience. Then, suddenly, he became extremely angry. He shook his stick at the other man and acted like a madman. The old gentleman stepped back, very surprised.

Then Mr Hyde lost all control of himself and knocked the man to the ground. And, the next moment, Hyde was angrily beating his victim's body with the heavy stick, and kicking him with such extraordinary force that you could hear the poor man's bones breaking.

At the horror of these sights and sounds, the girl fainted and fell to the floor. It was two o'clock in the morning before she became conscious again. She called the police, but by then the murderer had gone long ago.



(from *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, pages 14–15)

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